

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claims 1 and 2 and add newly written claims 14-24 as follows.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A deformable-mirror holder comprising:

a body with a central aperture for receiving a deformable mirror, and

~~the central aperture being defined by a plurality of flexible beams around said central~~

aperture, with each flexible beam having:

an end shaped to provide a supporting surface for ~~passively~~ supporting asaid deformable mirror; and

a flexible portion that links the end of the beam to the body of the holder and permits pivotable out of plane flexing of an edge of said deformable mirror.

2. (currently amended) A deformable-mirror holder as in claim 1, wherein the ends of

the flexible beams are co-joined to form a unitary structure shaped to provide asaid supporting surface.

3. (previously presented) A deformable-mirror holder as in claim 1, wherein the ends of the beams lie in the plane of the body of the holder such that, in use, the mirror is received within the body of the holder.

4. (previously presented) A deformable-mirror holder as in claim 1, wherein at least one beam is generally L-shaped such that one leg of the L-shape provides the flexible portion and the other leg of the L-shape provides the supporting surface of the end of the beam.

5. (previously presented) A deformable-mirror holder as in claim 4, wherein the internal corner of the L-shaped beam has a shoulder that extends part of the way along both legs of the L-shape.

6. (previously presented) A deformable-mirror holder as in claim 1, wherein the plurality of flexible beams are arranged around the entire aperture.

7. (previously presented) A deformable-mirror holder as in claim 6, wherein the width of the beams is larger than the separation between beams.

8. (previously presented) A deformable-mirror holder as in claim 7, wherein the width of the beams is greater than four times the separation between beams.

9. (previously presented) A deformable mirror and a deformable-mirror holder as in claim 1.

10. (previously presented) A deformable mirror and a deformable-mirror holder as in claim 4, wherein the peripheral edge of the mirror is supported from below by one leg of the L-shaped beam and is supported from the side by the other leg of the L-shaped beam.

11. (previously presented) A deformable mirror and a deformable-mirror holder as in claim 5, wherein the peripheral edge of the mirror is supported from below by one leg of the L-shaped beam and is supported from the side by an inwardly-facing side of the shoulder.

12. (cancelled).

13. (cancelled).

14. (new) A deformable-mirror holder comprising:  
a body with a central aperture for receiving a deformable mirror, and  
a plurality of flexible beams around said central aperture for supporting said mirror, each flexible beam comprising a means for supporting said mirror and permitting out of plane flexing of said mirror, said supporting means including an end shaped to provide a supporting surface for supporting said deformable mirror and a flexible portion that links said end of the beam to said body of the holder.

15. (new) A deformable-mirror holder as in claim 14, wherein the ends of the flexible beams are co-joined to form a unitary structure shaped to provide said supporting surface.

16. (new) A deformable-mirror holder as in claim 14, wherein the ends of the beams lie in the plane of the body of the holder such that, in use, the mirror is received within the body of the holder.

17. (new) A deformable-mirror holder as in claim 14, wherein at least one beam is generally L-shaped such that one leg of the L-shape provides the flexible portion and the other leg of the L-shape provides the supporting surface of the end of the beam.

18. (new) A deformable-mirror holder as in claim 17, wherein the internal corner of the L-shaped beam has a shoulder that extends part of the way along both legs of the L-shape.

19. (new) A deformable-mirror holder as in claim 14, wherein the plurality of flexible beams are arranged around the entire aperture.

20. (new) A deformable-mirror holder as in claim 19, wherein the width of the beams is larger than the separation between beams.

21. (new) A deformable-mirror holder as in claim 20, wherein the width of the beams is greater than four times the separation between beams.

22. (new) A deformable mirror and a deformable-mirror holder as in claim 14.

23. (new) A deformable mirror and a deformable-mirror holder as in claim 17, wherein the peripheral edge of the mirror is supported from below by one leg of the L-shaped beam and is supported from the side by the other leg of the L-shaped beam.

24. (new) A deformable mirror and a deformable-mirror holder as in claim 18, wherein the peripheral edge of the mirror is supported from below by one leg of the L-shaped beam and is supported from the side by an inwardly-facing side of the shoulder.